

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending, of which claim 1 is independent. Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9-11, and 13-17 are amended in accordance with preferred U.S. format. No new matter is introduced.

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment is proper, and an early first action on the merits is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary during prosecution, Applicant hereby requests any required extension of time not otherwise requested and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any prescribed fees not otherwise paid, including application processing, extension, and extra claims fees, to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.

Respectfully submitted,
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